

Subject: Helping homeless vet - impressive work by Officer Dan Harty and Janet Monteon

From: Todd Gilman <todd.gilman@lacity.org>

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To: Emada Tingirides <31546@lapd.online>, Jerald Case <36032@lapd.online>, nvergow@lahsa.org, Victor Hinderliter <vhinderliter@lahsa.org>, pcortez@lahsa.org

CC: Daniel Harty <41155@lapd.online>, Janet Monteon <jmonteon@lahsa.org>, Sahag Yedalian <sahag.yedalian@lacity.org>, nsaul@pubdef.lacounty.gov

LAPD and LAHSA Team:

I wanted to highlight very impressive work by both Dan Harty and Janet Monteon. In summary, they were able to get a homeless veteran off the streets after it became clear the VA would not be able to provide near-term help.

Last Friday, a homeless vet came to court. Without going into a lengthy backstory, it was clear that this honorably discharged vet needed housing and dual-diagnosis help ASAP. Over the past few weeks, this vet has tried on his own to navigate the VA for help. But he made no progress.

So I made a call to Officer Harty for his help. Officer Harty immediately drove to court and very politely* waited for the homeless vet to finish his appearance in front of the judge. Officer Harty next came to the VA campus in West LA to help navigate the vet through a myriad of different departments. This took hours. During this time, Officer Harty tracked down a social worker who ultimately guided the homeless vet into the right place. Unfortunately, it became clear that the VA would not be able to find a shelter bed for the vet, nor any type of near-term residential treatment. Instead, the VA were going to send the vet back out onto the streets that night.**

Officer Harty sprang into action. He reached out to Ms. Monteon. And, even though it was late on a Friday afternoon, Ms. Monteon was able to secure a week-long motel voucher for this homeless veteran. I was literally dropping off this homeless veteran at his encampment when the call came through: the vet would have a warm shower and safe bed that night. And this was due to Ms. Monteon's quick thinking and work on a last-minute, Friday afternoon crisis.

Ms. Monteon has continued to follow-up with this homeless vet, and has been amazing at pushing for a long-term solution.

I was, and continue to be incredibly impressed with both Officer Harty and Ms. Monteon's ability to solve a crisis situation - and they did it even though many people would have simply thought of this as a "VA issue". Officer Harty and Ms. Monteon also have incredibly impressive communication skills - they are responsive and proactive.

I am so proud to work with them. Without their involvement last Friday, a homeless veteran would be sleeping in the bushes by the 405 freeway. Now, because of Officer Harty and Ms. Monteon, he's safe in a motel room. And there is still work being done to find a long-term solution for this vet.

Regards,
Todd

*The courts were slow that day, so Officer Harty waited downstairs for at least an hour. But not once did he complain - he was incredibly polite even though the courts were

running very slowly and a lot of his time was wasted waiting for the vet to finish his appearance. I wish I had Officer Harty's patience and positive attitude.

**To be fair, we were helped by several folks at the VA. In particular, Willis Derby was incredibly helpful in getting this homeless vet to connect with a social worker. However, the VA is suffering from a lack of (i) shelter beds, and (ii) residential treatment beds. This is an infrastructure issue that VA needs to address ASAP.

Todd Gilman
Deputy City Attorney
Neighborhood Prosecutor Program: North Hollywood
Los Angeles City Attorney's Office
6262 Van Nuys Blvd.
Van Nuys, CA 91401
Office: (818) 374-6820
Cell/Text: (818) 482-8394
Email: todd.gilman@lacity.org <<mailto:todd.gilman@lacity.org>>

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